

## House Resolution 81

By: Representative Werkheiser of the 157<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 19, 2019, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol; and for other
- 2 purposes.
  
- 3 WHEREAS, hearing plays a critical role in communication and personal relationships,
- 4 overall health outcomes, psychological well-being, and safety; and
  
- 5 WHEREAS, hearing loss has been tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, and
- 6 isolation, and while it is typically irreversible it can be a symptom of an underlying medical
- 7 condition, such as infections, tumors, otosclerosis, or Meniere's disease; and
  
- 8 WHEREAS a study conducted by the Better Hearing Institute concluded that untreated
- 9 hearing loss has significant income ramifications, including negatively impacting household
- 10 income by up to \$12,000.00 annually and costing the United States \$122 billion in lost
- 11 earnings; and
  
- 12 WHEREAS, noise induced hearing loss is a preventable and significant, often unrecognized
- 13 health problem among adults in the United States and is a growing problem with adolescents
- 14 due to overamplification of personal listening devices; and
  
- 15 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications
- 16 Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults (15 percent) report some trouble
- 17 hearing, and about 28.2 million U.S. adults could benefit from using hearing aids; and
  
- 18 WHEREAS, according to the NIDCD, fewer than 30 percent of adults aged 70 and older
- 19 with hearing loss, and 16 percent of adults aged 20 to 69 with hearing loss who could benefit
- 20 from hearing aids have ever used them; and
  
- 21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International
- 22 Hearing Society, is composed of hearing healthcare professionals, including hearing aid

23 specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and  
24 assessment of hearing loss and rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related  
25 devices and counseling; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia Hearing Day, founded by the Georgia Society of Hearing  
27 Professionals, is observed on March 19 to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and  
28 hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world; and

29 WHEREAS, the theme of Georgia Hearing Day, 2019, is "Hearing the Future" and focuses  
30 on hearing loss prevention awareness and promoting access for individuals with hearing loss  
31 to necessary rehabilitation services and the communications tools they require.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body advise the citizens of Georgia to protect their hearing and seek the  
34 services of a licensed hearing healthcare professional – a hearing aid specialist, audiologist,  
35 or otolaryngologist – for regular hearing checks and recognize March 19, 2019, as Georgia  
36 Hearing Day at the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
39 public and the press.